Withdrawal of troops from the borders

†144. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to withdraw troops deployed on the borders back to their barracks;

(b) if so, the period for which the troops were deployed on the borders; and

(c) the additional amount Government had to spent for such deployment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government have decided to carry out strategic relocation of troops without compromising the capacity to respond decisively to any emergency, and without lowering of vigil in Jammu and Kashmir. The process of strategic relocation of troops is underway and would be completed in a gradual manner.

(b) The Army was mobilized for Op PARAKRAM on 19th December, 2001 and Government's decision for strategic relocation was taken on 16th October, 2002.

(c) The expenditure can be assessed only after the redeployment is complete.

High altitudes training for armed forces

145. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give exposure on skiing training in the Swiss Alps and high altitudes, to men of armed forces, if so, details thereof and whether this is on reciprocal basis;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether men in uniform have also got such training in Austria or other countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also proposed to set up modernized high altitude training schools in our country utilizing the services of trained Army officials, if so, the details of this project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Our armed forces are not proposed to be given exposure to skiing training in the Swiss Alps and high altitudes. Skiing and High altitudes training received in Austria in the form of courses is as under:—

(i) Alpine Training and High Altitude Combat Courses by two officers in January- February 1999.

(ii) Skiing Training Basic Course by two officers in January 2002.

(iii) Assistant Military Mountain Guide Winter Course by two officers in March 2002.

The Army already has a high altitude training school *i.e.* High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) at Gulmarg, Kashmir. The services of the Army personnel who have been trained abroad are utilized in HAWS.

Finalisation of AJT deal

146. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Advance Jet Trainers being inducted in the Indian Air Force;

(b) whether the deal has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have decided to induct Advance Jet Trainers but no deal has been finalised as yet.